

County of San Diego  
Revised: March 30, 1999  
Reviewed: Spring 2003

**PHYSICAL THERAPIST I**  
**PHYSICAL THERAPIST II**

**Class No. 004420**  
**Class No. 004410**

**DEFINITION:**

Under general supervision, to administer medically necessary physical therapy as prescribed by physicians to children with neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disorders; and to perform related work.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

This class series is found only in the California Children Services (CCS) program of the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Incumbents provide medically necessary physical therapy to physically disabled children who are medically eligible for CCS Medical Therapy Program (MTP).

**Physical Therapist I:**

This is the entry-level class in the professional licensed physical therapist series. This class is distinguished from the next higher-level class, Physical Therapist II, in that the latter has more experience and has responsibilities for more difficult tasks.

**Physical Therapist II:**

This is the journey-level class in the professional licensed physical therapist series. This class is distinguished from the next higher-level class, Senior Therapist, in that the latter has supervisory responsibilities for subordinate physical and occupational therapists.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

Provides medically necessary physical therapy services within a school base setting to children with neuromuscular or musculoskeletal disorders or to children at risk of developing those disorders; schedules, examines, evaluates and identifies physical capabilities and disabilities; develops therapeutic goals, objectives and treatment plans, instructs parents and relatives in methods of continuation of treatments at home; uses therapeutic techniques, monitors and charts patient's progress; participates in medical therapy conferences; assesses the need for and assists with ordering medically necessary durable medical equipment and orthotics; and maintains medical charts.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: I = Physical Therapist I  
II = Physical Therapist II

**Knowledge of:**

**I      II**

004420 – PHYSICAL THERAPIST I

1 of 3

004410 – PHYSICAL THERAPIST II

T	T	Principles, methods, and equipment used in physical therapy for the physically disabled.
T	T	Normal and abnormal growth and development of children.
T	T	Human anatomy and physiology including all systems of the body, with emphasis on musculoskeletal, circulatory, and nervous systems.
T	T	Relationships of anatomical structures to normal and abnormal movement including surface anatomy.
T	T	Concepts, scope and function of physical therapy and its relationships to other health professions
T	T	Medical terminology and record keeping.
T	T	Professional ethics, conduct and the medical-legal aspects of physical therapy care.
G	T	County and institution policies for the treatment of patients and the common patterns for the delivery of health services.
G	T	Neuro-physiological approach to neuro-muscular dysfunction.
G	T	Construction, use, and care of orthopedic devices and equipment.
G	T	Patho-physiological conditions resulting from injury and disease, and psychosocial reactions to illness and disease.

**Skills and Abilities to:**

The following apply to both classes:

- Apply physical therapy principles and techniques in the treatment of children with physical disabilities.
- Deliver prescribed physical therapy services.
- Use special equipment applicable to physical therapy.
- Evaluate patient progress.
- Maintain a caseload.
- Establish effective interpersonal relations, dealing with patients, patients’ families, and with other interested persons.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing.

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

**Physical Therapist I:**

Must be a graduate from a school with an accredited physical therapy curriculum. No previous experience as a licensed physical therapist is required.

**Physical Therapist II:**

Must be a graduate from a school with an accredited physical therapy curriculum. A minimum of one (1) year of clinical experience as a licensed physical therapist is required.

**SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:**

**License:**

A valid California Class C driver’s license is required at time of appointment or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

**Registration:**

Applicants must be licensed as physical therapists with the State of California Department of Consumer Affairs, Physical Therapy Board of California, (PTBC) 1418 Howe Ave., Suite 16, Sacramento, CA 95825-2560.

**Note:** If hired, graduates of accredited or approved schools of physical therapy that have filed an application for a license with PTBC must obtain their license within six (6) months from the time of hire, or be terminated from County Service.

**Working Conditions:**

May come into contact with contagious or unpredictable patients.

**Physical Requirements:**

The ability to lift and move patients.

**Background Investigation:**

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness with no felony convictions. Misdemeanor convictions may be disqualifying depending on number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment, candidates offered employment will be subject to a thorough background check and a limited security clearance investigation performed by the Sheriff's Department.

**Probationary Period:**

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in this class shall serve a probationary period of 12 months (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).